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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/379,212	08/23/1999	ROBERT J. DUFFY	8236-053-999	1003
7590 01/24/2006			EXAM	INER
Fulwider Patton Lee & Utecht LLP			MENDEZ, MANUEL A	
Howard Hughes Center 6060 Center Drive Tenth Floor			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
Los Angeles, CA 90045			3763	

DATE MAILED: 01/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)	Applicant(s)	
	09/379,212	DUFFY ET AL.		
Notice of Allowability	Examiner	Art Unit		
	Manuel Mendez	3763		
The MAILING DATE of this communication apperature All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RI of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313	(OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this or other appropriate communica GHTS. This application is subje	application. If not inclu- ition will be mailed in du	ded e course. <b>THIS</b>	
1. $\boxtimes$ This communication is responsive to <u>RCE dated 04/13/200</u>	<u>04</u> .			
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 19-28.				
<ol> <li>Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority una a)</li></ol>	been received.  been received in Application No cuments have been received in to the communication to file a re	o his national stage applic		
noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONM THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.  4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submit		ER'S AMENDMENT or	NOTICE OF	
INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which give				
<ul> <li>5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") mus         <ul> <li>(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftspers</li> <li>1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date</li> <li>(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Paper No./Mail Date</li> <li>Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1. each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the deposit of the deposi</li></ul></li></ul>	on's Patent Drawing Review ( Post Amendment / Comment or in the second of the header according to 37 CFR 1.1 sit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIA	ne Office action of awings in the front (not the 21(d).  L must be submitted.	·	
Attachment(s) 1. □ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. □ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5. ☐ Notice of Informa 6. ☐ Interview Summ Paper No./Mail		TO-152)	
<ul> <li>Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/0 Paper No./Mail Date</li> <li>Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material</li> </ul>	8), 7. Examiner's Ame			

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## **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art searched did not produce any results disclosing, a modular patient care system disclosing, *inter alia*, a plurality of modules, a hinge connector pair, a latch mechanism comprising a first part connected to the first module and a second part connected to the second module, the second part being capable of springably securing to the first part when forced into the first part, means for releasing the second part for the first part, a guide mechanism separate from the hinge connector pair and the latch mechanism and located therebetween, the guide mechanism for discouraging off-axis engagement of the first and second modules and for providing mechanical stability for the first and second modules when engaged; wherein the means for releasing is spaced away from the first portion of the second module a distance sufficient to prevent a hand gripping the first portion from also activating the releasing means.

In relation to the <u>Request to Correct Inventorship dated October 21, 2005</u>, the examiner of record notes for the record that presently the bibliographic data sheet of this application includes Mr. Dale Coleman as one of the inventors. Therefore, it appears that all affairs concerning applicant's request are in order.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Manuel Mendez whose telephone number is 703-272-4977. The examiner can normally be reached on 0730-1800 hrs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Nicholas D. Lucchesi can be reached on 571-272-4977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Manuel Mendez
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3763

MM